**TRCS: 6th into 7th Grade ELA Reading Assignment for Summer 2015**

**Dear Rising 7th Graders, your summer ELA reading assignment consists of 4 parts. Parts 1-3 are required. Part 4 is optional. In all, you will read at least 3 books this summer.**

1. Book #1: Of the 6 recommended titles in Part 1, select one to (a) read, (b) outline, (c) summarize, and (d) and write about for your extended response.
2. Book #2: Of the 3 recommended titles in Part 2, select one to read.
3. Book #3: Choose a book of any genre for your independent reading.
4. Use the log to record *any additional books* you read this summer.

**PART 1(A): REQUIRED READING #1**

**Choose 1 of the following 6 titles as your Required Reading #1:**

***CAMINAR* by Skila Brown**

**208 pages, Grade 6 and Up**

**5+ copies available through Queens Library**

This debut novel in free verse chronicles the experience of a young highland Guatemalan indigenous boy in the midst of the country’s civil war, a little-known topic in the United States. Carlos’s village is caught in a conflict between the army and guerilla soldiers, and throughout the text he is faced with decisions, large and small, around the concept of what it means to become a man. The visual layout of the poems serves to deepen the meaning and emotional impact of this powerful work.

***THE CROSSOVER* by Kwame Alexander**

**240 pages, Grade 6 and Up**

**46+ copies available through Queens Library; also available in downloadable ebooks format**

Employing the staccato rhythms of the basketball court, this novel in verse paints a portrait of twin brothers and star athletes Josh and Jordan. Alexander’s words push, pull, and pulse across the page as readers identify with Josh’s jealousy over his brother’s first girlfriend. More than sports fiction, more than a tale of sibling rivalry, this is a story about forgiveness, resilience, and family.

***A MONSTER CALLS* by Patrick Ness**

**224 pages, 730 Lexile, Grade 7 and Up**

**15+ copies available through Queens Library; also available in audiobook and ebooks formats**

With an absent father and a mother dying of cancer, Conor O’Malley has recurring nightmares that are becoming more and more real, until they transform into a monster that tells him three stories and demands one in return. Eerie illustrations help set the mood in this haunting tale of acceptance, letting go, and healing.

***SERAPHINA* by Rachel Hartman**

**480 pages, 760 Lexile, Grade 7 and Up**

**20+ copies available through Queens Library; also available in audiobook and ebooks formats**

In the kingdom of Goredd, humans and dragons have forged a fragile alliance, with the super-rational creatures assuming human form to serve as ambassadors and teachers. Seraphina, a gifted court musician, must hide the truth about her mixed heritage and call upon all of her abilities to investigate a royal murder that threatens to undermine a generation of peaceful accord. Brilliantly realized high fantasy at its fire-breathing best! (Aug.)

***WEST OF THE MOON* by Margi Preus**

**224 Pages, 810 Lexile, Grades 5-8**

**22+ copies available through Queens Library; also available in downloadable ebooks format**

Norway—it’s not just for Disney princesses anymore! In this enchanting story set in the mid-19th century, two sisters are separated by grim circumstances until the resourceful Astri escapes from her wretched goatherd master and finds Greta and the girls make their way west to meet their destiny in America. Weaving superstition and folkloric elements into a gripping narrative, Preus creates a unique brand of magical storytelling.

***Wonderstruck* by Brian Selznick**

**640 pages, 830 Lexile, Grades 4-8**

**52+ copies available through Queens Library**

Young Rose and Ben, both deaf, find themselves at the American Museum of Natural History on similar quests though 50 years apart. Their parallel stories, one told in prose and the other in pictures, eventually intersect, but until they do readers are left hoping that Ben will find a family to love and Rose a place where she belongs. A warm, magical tale done in Selznick’s signature style.

**PART 1(B): OUTLINE IMPORTANT DETAILS FROM REQUIRED READING #1**

**Answer key questions about the story by completing the following chart:**

|  |
| --- |
| ***Setting:* Where and when does the story take place?** |
| ***Characterization:* Who is the main or most important character in the story? How would you describe this character?** |
| ***Conflict:* What does this main character desire, want, or wish for, at the start of the story? What or who prevent the main character from achieving this goal?** |
| ***Plot:* How does the situation (conflict) get worse for the main character as the story progresses? What are some major events in the story? How is the conflict resolved at the end of the story?** |
| ***Theme:* What do you think is the author’s message (about life and the world) to readers?** |

**PART 1(C): SUMMARIZE REQUIRED READING #1**

**Using your answers from chart (B), in the blank space below, summarize the story in ONE long paragraph:**

**PART 1(D): EXTENDED RESPONSE USING EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT**

**Please choose ONE of the following options.  Your extended response should be 1-2 pages in length and may be typed. *Important: Students typing up their response should select “12” font size, and “double” line spacing.***

Option 1.  Describe the setting, environment or world that the characters inhabit in the text. Discuss how it affects the characters. In your response, please provide at least ***three*** details from the text that support your ideas.  Secondly, make a connection to this response by describing a place, neighborhood, or city you visited that left a strong impression on you.  
  
Option 2.  Choose any character in the text and explain whether or not this character is admirable.  In your response, please provide at least ***three*** details from the text that support your ideas.  Secondly, make a connection to this response by writing about someone who is admirable in your own life.  
  
Option 3.  Describe an obstacle a character had to overcome and how he/she overcame this obstacle.  In your response, please provide at least ***three*** details from the text that support your ideas.  Secondly, make a connection to this response by describing an obstacle you had to overcome in your own life.  
  
Option 4.  Describe a major life lesson the author conveys in the text and how this lesson is learned.  In your response, please provide at least ***three*** details from the text that support your ideas.  Secondly, make a connection to this response by explaining how we can apply this lesson to our own lives.

**PART 2: REQUIRED READING #2**

**You must read ONE of the following three texts about the immigrant experience for your Required Reading #2.**

***WHEN I WAS PUERTO RICAN* by Esmeralda Santiago**

**278 pages, 1020 Lexile**

**50+ copies available through Queens Library**

Esmeralda Santiago's story begins in rural Puerto Rico, where her childhood was full of both tenderness and domestic strife, tropical sounds and sights as well as poverty. Growing up, she learned the proper way to eat a guava, [and] the sound of tree frogs in the mango groves at night…. As she enters school we see the clash, both hilarious and fierce, of Puerto Rican and Yankee culture. When her mother, Mami, a force of nature, takes off to New York with her seven, soon to be eleven children, Esmeralda, the oldest, must learn new rules, a new language, and eventually take on a new identity. In this first volume of her much-praised, bestselling trilogy, Santiago brilliantly recreates the idyllic landscape and tumultuous family life of her earliest years and her tremendous journey from the *barrio* to Brooklyn, from translating for her mother at the welfare office to high honors at Harvard.

***ALMOST A WOMAN* by Esmeralda Santiago**

**336 pages, 1030 Lexile**

**23+ copies available through Queens Library; also available in downloadable ebooks format**

Following the enchanting story recounted in *When I Was Puerto Rican* of the author’s emergence from the barrios of Brooklyn to the prestigious Performing Arts High School in Manhattan, Esmeralda Santiago delivers the tale of her young adulthood, where she continually strives to find a balance between becoming American and staying Puerto Rican. While translating for her mother Mami at the welfare office in the morning, starring as Cleopatra at New York’s prestigious Performing Arts High School in the afternoons, and dancing salsa all night, she begins to defy her mother’s protective rules, only to find that independence brings new dangers and dilemmas.

***THE REVOLUTION OF EVELYN SERRANO* by Sonia Manzano**

**224 pages, 720 Lexile, Grades 6 - 10**

**9+ copies available through Queens Library; also available in downloadable ebooks format**

There are two secrets Evelyn Serrano is keeping from her Mami and Papo? her true feelings about growing up in her Spanish Harlem neighborhood, and her attitude about Abuela, her sassy grandmother who's come from Puerto Rico to live with them. Then, like an urgent ticking clock, events erupt that change everything. The Young Lords, a Puerto Rican activist group, dump garbage in the street and set it on fire, igniting a powerful protest. When Abuela steps in to take charge, Evelyn is thrust into the action. Tempers flare, loyalties are tested. Through it all, Evelyn learns important truths about her Latino heritage and the history makers who shaped a nation. Infused with actual news accounts from the time period, Sonia Manzano has crafted a gripping work of fiction based on her own life growing up during a fiery, unforgettable time in America, when young Latinos took control of their destinies.

**PART 3: INDEPENDENT READING**

**In addition to Required Readings #1 and #2, please pick ONE ADDITIONAL book to read independently over the summer, and complete the reading log below. This third book can be in any genre, including nonfiction and graphic novels, as long as it’s more than 100 pages long.**

**Reading Log for Independent Reading**

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| --- |
| **Title:**  **Author:**  **# of Pages:**  **Started Reading On \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / 2015**  **Finished Reading On: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / 2015**  **Copy down your favorite line in the story and explain why you like it best:**  **Describe the most memorable scene in the story and explain why it stands out:**  **Describe one minor character you wish to learn more about and explain your choice:** |

**PART 4: OPTIONAL INDEPENDENT READING**

**USE THE READING LOG BELOW TO RECORD ANY ADDITIONAL BOOKS YOU READ THIS SUMMER**

|  |
| --- |
| **Title:**  **Author:**  **# of Pages:**  **Started Reading On \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / 2015**  **Finished Reading On: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / 2015** |
| **Title:**  **Author:**  **# of Pages:**  **Started Reading On \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / 2015**  **Finished Reading On: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / 2015** |
| **Title:**  **Author:**  **# of Pages:**  **Started Reading On \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / 2015**  **Finished Reading On: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / 2015** |
| **Title:**  **Author:**  **# of Pages:**  **Started Reading On \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / 2015**  **Finished Reading On: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / 2015** |